Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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CLUSTER ONE: ARTICLE VI

Submitted by New Zealand

Proposed elements for inclusion in the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session

Note. New Zealand will, over the course of the preparatory process, be looking to achieve consensus formulations that cover the ideas in the following proposals, some of which have already been advanced by other States parties. Those with an asterisk may be suitable for development during the course of the first session of the Preparatory Committee as positions on which all States parties can now agree.

Article VI. Principles and objectives

Paragraph 4 (a), Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

* States parties welcome the adoption and signature by more than 140 countries of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and underline their commitment to strictly observe its provisions pending entry into force. States parties not yet party to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty undertake to join this Treaty. States parties further agree to pursue all possible measures consistent with international law to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of this Treaty.

Paragraph 4 (b), Cut-off

* States parties continue to attach high priority to negotiations on a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator of the Conference on Disarmament and the mandate contained therein. States parties agree to consider what further steps might be taken to enable these negotiations to begin promptly.

Paragraph 4 (c), Nuclear disarmament

The nuclear-weapon States parties reaffirm their commitment to fulfil with determination their obligations under article VI, and undertake to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament

in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. In this context, the nuclear-weapon States parties declare unequivocally their commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons and agree to start immediately on the practical first steps and negotiations required for its achievement.

Nuclear-weapon States agree to pursue with determination the elimination of nuclear weapons through all available channels, including in bilateral negotiations and in negotiations among all five nuclear-weapon States.

* States parties agree that the Conference on Disarmament, the international community's standing body for disarmament negotiations, is mandated to pursue all items on its agenda, including nuclear disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament is the appropriate forum for multilateral dialogue and the negotiation of further steps, as appropriate, which contribute to the goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons.